

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-6, and amend Claim 16, as indicated herein.

Please add new Claims 32-40

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7. (Previously amended) A chitosan containing material derived from fungal biomass, the chitosan containing material having: greater than 85 percent deacetylation of N-acetyl groups in the chitin, and not including material from phyto-plankton, crustaceans, or mollusks.

8. (Original) The chitosan containing material derived from fungal biomass of claim 7, wherein a 1 percent by weight solution of the chitosan containing material in 1 percent aqueous acetic acid has a viscosity of less than 25 centipoise at 25°C.

9. (Original) The chitosan containing material derived from fungal biomass of claim 7, wherein a 1 percent by weight solution of the chitosan containing material in 1 percent aqueous acetic acid has a viscosity of less than 15 centipoise at 25°C.

10. (Original) The chitosan containing material of claim 7, wherein the chitosan containing material has greater than 90 percent deacetylation of the N-acetyl groups in the chitin.

11. (Original) The chitosan containing material of claim 7, wherein the chitosan containing material has greater than 93 percent deacetylation of the N-acetyl groups in the chitin.

12. (Original) The chitosan containing material of claim 7, wherein the chitosan containing material has greater than 95 percent deacetylation of the N-acetyl groups in the chitin.

13. (Original) The chitosan containing material of claim 7, wherein the chitosan containing material has ash levels below 0.50 percent.

14. (Original) The chitosan containing material of claim 7, wherein a 1 percent by weight solution of the chitosan containing material in 1 percent aqueous acetic acid has a turbidity of less than 40 NTU.

15. (Original) The chitosan containing material of claim 7, wherein the chitosan is derived from substantially uniform microbial fungal sources.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The chitosan containing material of claim 7~~ A chitosan containing material derived from fungal biomass, the chitosan containing material having greater than 85 percent deacetylation of N-acetyl groups in the chitin and not including material from phyto-plankton, crustaceans, or mollusks, wherein the chitosan is derived from Candida Guillermondii, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus terreus, and combinations thereof.

17. (Original) A chitosan containing material of claim 7 wherein less than 15 percent of the amine groups are acetylated and said material is obtained from microbial biomass.

32. (New) The chitosan containing material derived from fungal biomass of claim 16, wherein a 1 percent by weight solution of the chitosan containing material in 1 percent aqueous acetic acid has a viscosity of less than 25 centipoise at 25°C.

33. (New) The chitosan containing material derived from fungal biomass of claim 16, wherein a 1 percent by weight solution of the chitosan containing material in 1 percent aqueous acetic acid has a viscosity of less than 15 centipoise at 25°C.

34. (New) The chitosan containing material of claim 16, wherein the chitosan containing material has greater than 90 percent deacetylation of the N-acetyl groups in the chitin.

35. (New) The chitosan containing material of claim 16, wherein the chitosan containing material has greater than 93 percent deacetylation of the N-acetyl groups in the chitin.

36. (New) The chitosan containing material of claim 16, wherein the chitosan containing material has greater than 95 percent deacetylation of the N-acetyl groups in the chitin.

37. (New) The chitosan containing material of claim 16, wherein the chitosan containing material has ash levels below 0.50 percent.

38. (New) The chitosan containing material of claim 16, wherein a 1 percent by weight solution of the chitosan containing material in 1 percent aqueous acetic acid has a turbidity of less than 40 NTU.

39. (New) The chitosan containing material of claim 16, wherein the chitosan is derived from substantially uniform microbial fungal sources.

40. (New) The chitosan containing material of claim 16, wherein less than 15 percent of the amine groups are acetylated and said material is obtained from microbial biomass.